THE CODEX GIGAS

(The Devil's Bible Mystery)

A HISTORICAL RESEARCH BOOK ON THE WORLD'S LARGEST MEDIEVAL MANUSCRIPT

THE WORLD'S LARGEST MEDIEVAL MANUSCRIPT

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The Giant Book That Shocked the World

Codex Gigas – The Devil's Bible

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Preface

The Codex Gigas, popularly known as the Devil's Bible, is one of the most mysterious manuscripts ever created. For centuries, stories about demons, secret knowledge, and missing pages have surrounded this remarkable book. In this project, we explore the true history of the Codex Gigas, separate myths from facts, and uncover why this medieval manuscript continues to fascinate researchers around the world.

This book is the result of research conducted by Ayush, Alka, and Rishikesh. Our goal is to present the story in an engaging and informative way while staying as close as possible to historical evidence.

Chapter 1: The Giant Book That Shocked the World

Introduction:-

Imagine walking into a medieval library and seeing a book so large that it takes two people to carry it. A book nearly one meter tall and weighing around seventy-five kilograms. A book so enormous that it instantly attracts everyone's attention.

This is the Codex Gigas.

The Codex Gigas, also known as the "Devil's Bible," is one of the most fascinating and mysterious manuscripts in human history. It is the largest surviving medieval manuscript in the world and is famous for its enormous size and the full-page illustration of the Devil contained within it. The manuscript was created in the early 13th century and continues to attract historians, researchers, and mystery enthusiasts.

History of the Codex Gigas

The Codex Gigas was written between 1204 and 1230 AD in a Benedictine monastery located in Podlaziee, Bohemia, which is now part of the Czech Republic. The book is approximately 92 centimeters tall, 50 centimeters wide, and weighs around 75 kilograms.

The manuscript contains the complete Latin Bible along with many other texts, including historical records, medical information, calendars, exorcism formulas, and encyclopedic writings. Because of its enormous size and the variety of information it contains, it has often been described as a medieval library in a single book.

How this Book Became Devil's Bible-

The story begins in the early 13th century, According to the legend, a monk living in a monastery committed a serious crime. The exact nature of his offense has been lost over time, but the punishment was said to be severe. To avoid this terrible fate, the monk promised that he would

create the greatest book ever written. It would contain all human knowledge and bring great honor to the monastery.

The problem was that he promised to finish this enormous task in just one night.

As the hours passed and darkness filled the monastery, the monk realized that completing such a massive manuscript before sunrise was impossible. Fear and desperation began to consume him. According to the story, he abandoned hope and turned to a supernatural source for help.

The monk supposedly called upon Lucifer, the Devil himself, and offered his soul in exchange for assistance. The Devil accepted the bargain and miraculously completed the manuscript before dawn. To show his gratitude, the monk allegedly included a giant portrait of Satan inside the book.

The story was dramatic, frightening, and unforgettable. It quickly spread from one generation to another. Over time.

And that's how the Codex Gigas earned the nickname "The Devil's Bible.

Chapter 2: Was the Devil Really Involved

But here's where things get interesting.
For centuries, people believed the terrifying legend of the monk and the Devil. The story spread across Europe and became one of the most famous tales associated with any manuscript in history.

However, modern historians decided to investigate the truth.

When researchers began carefully studying the manuscript, they approached the mystery from a scientific perspective. Instead of relying on legends, they examined the book itself. Every page, every line of text, and every decorative element became part of their investigation.

One of the first discoveries involved the handwriting.

The entire manuscript appears to be written in an extremely consistent style. The shape of the letters, the spacing between words, and the overall appearance remain remarkably similar throughout the book. If different people had worked on the manuscript, historians would normally expect to see noticeable differences in handwriting.

Instead, the evidence suggested something surprising.

Most of the manuscript was likely written by a single individual.

This raised another important question.

If one person wrote the entire book, how long would it have taken?

Researchers performed calculations based on the number of pages, the amount of text, and the time required to prepare parchment and ink. Their estimates suggested that writing the manuscript alone would have taken many years. Some experts believe it could have required twenty years of continuous work. Others estimate that the entire project may have taken thirty years or more.

Think about that for a moment.

Imagine spending decades of your life working on a single book. Day after day. Year after year. Writing thousands of lines by hand without the help of modern technology. No computers. No printers. No electric lighting. Just patience, skill, and determination.

Suddenly, the creation of the Codex Gigas seems less like a supernatural event and more like an extraordinary human achievement.

The materials used in the manuscript also support this conclusion. The pages were made from animal parchment, which had to be carefully prepared before writing could begin. Creating such a large amount of parchment would have required enormous effort and resources. This was not something that could be completed overnight.

As historians continued their investigation, they found no evidence of a pact with the Devil. There were no secret messages claiming supernatural involvement. There were no hidden confessions from the monk. There was nothing within the manuscript itself to prove the legend.

However, one mystery remained.

Why would a religious manuscript contain such a large image of Satan?

The answer may be connected to medieval religious teachings. In the Middle Ages, images were often used to teach moral lessons. The Devil represented temptation, sin, and the dangers of turning away from God. Interestingly, a

nearby page in the manuscript depicts the Heavenly City, symbolizing salvation and eternal life.

Many scholars believe these images were intentionally placed to create a powerful contrast between good and evil. Rather than praising the Devil, the manuscript may have been warning readers about him.

Yet even after all this research, the legend never completely disappeared.

People continued to tell stories about curses, secret knowledge, and supernatural forces. The giant image of the Devil remained one of the most famous illustrations in medieval history, and the mystery surrounding the book continued to grow.

Perhaps that is because legends are often more exciting than facts.

But in the case of the Codex Gigas, the real story is impressive enough on its own. The evidence suggests that the manuscript was not the work of demons or dark magic. Instead, it was likely created by a dedicated monk whose patience and determination allowed him to produce one of the greatest manuscripts ever made.

Still, some mysteries remained unsolved.

And the greatest of those mysteries involved several pages that had vanished without a trace...

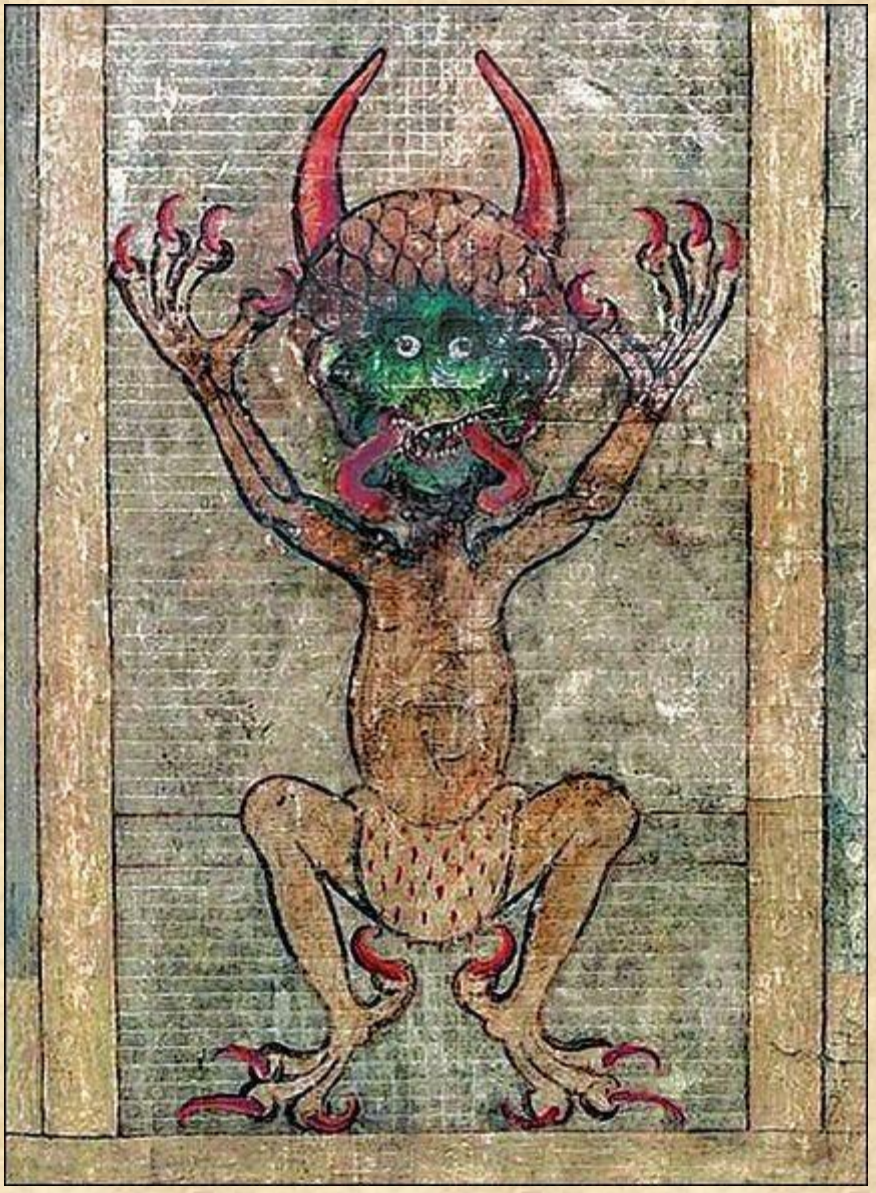
A mystery involving one of the most famous images in medieval history.

The image about a Giant full-page illustration of the Devil. Unlike most medieval manuscripts, where demons appeared only in small decorations or illustrations, the Codex Gigas dedicated an entire page to Satan himself.

End of Chapter 2

Chapter 3: The Face of the Devil

A giant portrait of the Devil.



This was not a small drawing hidden in the corner of a page. It was not a decorative symbol placed among the text. Instead, the Devil occupied almost an entire page of the manuscript. For medieval readers, the image would have been shocking, unforgettable, and perhaps even terrifying.

More than eight hundred years later, it remains one of the most famous illustrations in the history of medieval manuscripts.

The figure is shown, The Devil is depicted sitting in a strange posture, staring directly outward as if looking at the reader. His eyes are large and intense. His face appears both frightening and mysterious. Sharp claws extend from his hands and feet, emphasizing his supernatural nature.

Most striking of all are the horns rising from his head. Throughout medieval Europe, horns were commonly associated with demons and evil spirits.

The Devil is also shown wearing a garment made of white fur. Historians believe this fur resembles ermine, a material often associated with royalty and high status during the Middle Ages. Some scholars have suggested that this detail may have been included intentionally to symbolize

pride, power, or the Devil's desire to place himself above others.

To understand the image properly, it is important to remember the time period in which the manuscript was created. During the Middle Ages, religious art was often used to teach lessons about morality, faith, and human behavior. Most people could not read, so visual images played a powerful role in communicating important ideas.

The Devil was frequently used as a symbol of temptation, sin, and spiritual danger. His appearance in religious manuscripts served as a warning rather than a celebration.

In the case of the Codex Gigas, the portrait of Satan may have been intended to remind readers of the consequences of choosing evil over good.

The illustration becomes much more than a frightening picture. It becomes part of a larger message about human choices and moral responsibility As centuries passed, stories began to grow around the image. Some claimed that the eyes followed viewers around the room. Others believed the picture possessed supernatural power. A few even suggested that looking at the image for too long could bring misfortune.

These stories spread largely because of the manuscript's already mysterious reputation. Once people believed that the Devil had helped create the book, every unusual feature seemed to reinforce the legend.

Modern researchers, however, have found no evidence supporting such claims. The portrait is extraordinary, but it remains a work of medieval art rather than proof of supernatural activity.

End of Chapter 3

Chapter 4: The Book That Refused to Die

Most ancient books slowly disappear into history. Pages are lost, bindings fall apart, libraries burn, and eventually many manuscripts vanish forever. Yet the Codex Gigas followed a very different path. Despite centuries of danger, conflict, and mystery, it survived when countless other medieval books did not.

By the end of the seventeenth century, the Codex Gigas had already survived for hundreds of years. It had passed through monasteries, witnessed political changes, and endured the passage of time. Many medieval manuscripts created during the same period had already disappeared forever, destroyed by war, neglect, or natural disasters.

Yet the Codex Gigas continued to survive.

Its greatest challenge came in the year 1697.

A devastating fire broke out in Stockholm's Royal Castle in Sweden. The flames spread rapidly through the building, consuming rooms filled with priceless treasures, artworks, and historical documents. As smoke filled the castle,

people rushed to save whatever they could before the fire destroyed everything.

Among the treasures trapped inside was the Codex Gigas.

The enormous manuscript was unlike any ordinary book. Standing nearly one meter tall and weighing around seventyfive kilograms, it was extremely difficult to move. Time was running out, and the flames were getting closer.

According to historical accounts, a desperate decision was made.

The giant manuscript was thrown out of a castle window.

Imagine the scene.

Outside, chaos filled the air. Thick smoke rose above the castle while flames illuminated the night sky. Then, from one of the windows, the massive manuscript was pushed into the open air.

A book that had survived for centuries came crashing to the ground below. Most books would not have survived such an event.

But the Codex Gigas did.

Although it suffered some damage, it escaped complete destruction. Once again, the manuscript survived when many other historical treasures were lost forever.

This was only one chapter in its incredible journey.

Over the centuries, the Codex Gigas survived wars, political conflicts, relocation across countries, and the constant threat of deterioration. It seemed almost determined to remain part of history.

Because of its remarkable survival, many people began referring to it as a book that refused to die.

Yet while historians were celebrating the manuscript's survival, they discovered something deeply puzzling.

Something was missing.

As researchers carefully examined the Codex Gigas, they noticed evidence that several pages had once existed but were no longer present. These pages had not simply fallen out because of age. The structure of the manuscript suggested that they had been deliberately removed.

End of Chapter 4

Chapter 5 : The Mystery of the Missing Pages

Just when historians thought they had uncovered most of the secrets of the Codex Gigas, they stumbled upon a mystery that remains unsolved even today.

Several pages were missing.

At first glance, this may not seem unusual. After all, the Codex Gigas is more than eight hundred years old. Many ancient books have suffered damage from time, fire, water, insects, and human handling. Missing pages are not uncommon in medieval manuscripts.

However, the situation with the Codex Gigas was different.

Researchers discovered evidence suggesting that the missing pages had not simply fallen out or been destroyed by accident. Instead, they appeared to have been deliberately removed. Someone, at some point in history, had carefully taken them out of the manuscript.

This discovery immediately raised several questions.

Who removed the pages?

When were they removed?

And perhaps most importantly, what information did they contain?

Unfortunately, the answers remain unknown.

The missing section consisted of several leaves that were originally part of the manuscript. Historians estimate that approximately eight leaves, or sixteen pages, disappeared from the book. Although this represents only a small portion of the Codex Gigas, the missing pages became one of the manuscript's greatest mysteries.

The problem is simple.

Because the pages no longer exist, nobody can read them.

There are no copies.

There are no detailed descriptions.

There are no records explaining exactly what was written on them.

It is as if a small piece of history vanished without leaving a trace.

Naturally, this mystery captured people's imagination.

As news of the missing pages spread, theories began to emerge. Some were based on historical reasoning. Others were based entirely on speculation.

One of the earliest theories suggested that the missing pages contained important monastic records. Since the Codex Gigas was created in a Benedictine monastery, historians believe the lost section may have included rules, regulations, or administrative information related to monastic life.

This explanation is considered one of the most likely possibilities.

However, for many people, such an answer seemed far too ordinary.

The Codex Gigas was already known as the Devil's Bible. It contained a giant portrait of Satan. It was surrounded by legends involving supernatural bargains and dark forces.

Because of this reputation, people began imagining far more dramatic possibilities.

Some claimed that the missing pages contained forbidden knowledge.

Others believed they described secret rituals performed by medieval monks.

A few suggested that the pages contained instructions for communicating with demons or summoning supernatural entities.

One particularly popular theory claimed that the missing pages contained the details of the monk's alleged pact with Lucifer. According to this idea, someone later removed the pages to hide evidence of the agreement.

The problem with these theories is that no evidence supports them.

Historians have spent decades studying the manuscript, yet none of the surviving pages contain information suggesting that the missing section was connected to dark magic or satanic practices.

In fact, everything known about the Codex Gigas points in a different direction.

The manuscript is largely a collection of religious, historical, educational, and medical texts. Its contents reflect the knowledge and beliefs of medieval Christian society rather than secret occult traditions.

Still, the mystery remains.

And mysteries have a way of growing larger over time.

As centuries passed, stories surrounding the missing pages became increasingly dramatic. Writers, filmmakers, and internet users added new details to the legend. Some claimed the pages contained dangerous information capable of changing history. Others suggested that anyone who discovered them would unlock ancient secrets lost for centuries.

These stories are fascinating, but they belong to the world of folklore rather than historical research.

Modern scholars generally agree that the missing pages were probably removed for practical reasons. It is possible that they contained material considered unnecessary, outdated, or sensitive during a particular period of history. Someone may have removed them without realizing that future generations would become obsessed with their disappearance.

Ironically, the act of removing the pages may have made them more important than they ever were originally.

Had the pages remained in the manuscript, they might have attracted little attention.

Instead, their absence transformed them into one of the greatest unsolved mysteries in medieval history.

Today, researchers continue to study the Codex Gigas using advanced technology. Digital imaging, manuscript analysis, and historical investigation have revealed many details about the book's creation and journey through time.

Yet none of these methods have solved the mystery of the missing pages.

More than eight hundred years after the manuscript was created, historians still do not know exactly what was lost. Perhaps the missing pages contained nothing extraordinary.

Perhaps they contained information so ordinary that nobody considered it worth preserving.

Or perhaps they held details that future generations would have found fascinating.

The truth is that we may never know.

And that uncertainty is what makes the mystery so powerful.

The missing pages remind us that history is rarely complete. No matter how much we learn about the past, there will always be gaps in the story—questions without answers, clues without explanations, and mysteries waiting to be solved.

For the Codex Gigas, the missing pages remain one of those mysteries.

And as researchers searched for answers, they discovered that the manuscript had survived an extraordinary journey through wars, fires, and centuries of change.

Its story was far from over.

End of Chapter 5

Chapter 6 : Emperor Rudolf II and the Devil's Bible

As the reputation of the Codex Gigas continued to grow across Europe, the giant manuscript eventually attracted the attention of one of the most unusual rulers of the Renaissance period—Emperor Rudolf II.

Rudolf II was not an ordinary emperor. Unlike many rulers who focused primarily on warfare and politics, Rudolf was fascinated by knowledge, science, art, astronomy, alchemy, and rare objects. His palace in Prague became a center of learning where scholars, artists, scientists, and collectors gathered from different parts of Europe.

Among the many treasures that entered his collection was the Codex Gigas.

By the late sixteenth century, the manuscript had already gained a mysterious reputation. Its enormous size, ancient origins, and unusual portrait of the Devil made it one of the most remarkable books in existence. When Rudolf acquired the manuscript in 1594, it became one of the prized possessions of his vast collection.

The emperor was known for his curiosity about unusual and mysterious objects. Rare manuscripts, scientific instruments, paintings, and artifacts filled his court. The Codex Gigas fit perfectly into this collection because it was unlike any other book in the world.

However, as the years passed, Rudolf's life became increasingly difficult.

Political tensions began to rise throughout the Holy Roman Empire. Conflicts emerged between Rudolf and members of his own family. His ability to govern weakened, and many powerful figures within the empire began challenging his authority.

At the same time, Rudolf became increasingly isolated from political affairs. He spent much of his time surrounded by scholars, artists, and collectors rather than focusing on government matters. Although his interests helped promote culture and scientific learning, they also contributed to criticism from those who expected stronger leadership.

Gradually, Rudolf lost control over significant parts of his empire.

His younger brother Matthias gained increasing influence and eventually took control of several territories that had

once been ruled by Rudolf. The emperor's political position continued to weaken, and much of his authority was stripped away during the final years of his reign.

By the beginning of the seventeenth century, the oncepowerful ruler found himself struggling to maintain his position.

In 1612, Rudolf II died in Prague.

His death marked the end of a fascinating but troubled reign. Although he had been one of Europe's greatest patrons of art and learning, his political career ended in disappointment and decline.

Soon after his death, stories began to spread.

Because Rudolf had owned the Codex Gigas, some people started connecting his misfortunes to the mysterious manuscript. The book was already known as the Devil's Bible, and many believed that such an unusual object must possess supernatural powers.

According to later legends, the manuscript brought bad luck to those who possessed it. Some storytellers claimed that Rudolf's downfall was evidence of a curse connected to the book.

However, modern historians strongly disagree with this interpretation.

Historical records show that Rudolf's problems resulted from political conflicts, family disputes, and challenges within the Holy Roman Empire. There is no evidence that the Codex Gigas had anything to do with his downfall.

The idea of a curse emerged later as part of the growing mythology surrounding the manuscript.

Yet the story remains fascinating because it demonstrates how easily legends can become attached to historical events. When people see a mysterious object and a tragic outcome, they often search for a connection, even when none exists.

Today, historians remember Rudolf II not as a victim of a curse, but as one of the most interesting rulers of his era. His support for art, science, and scholarship helped shape European culture, and his collection preserved many important historical treasures.

Among those treasures was the Codex Gigas.

Although the emperor's reign ended in decline, the manuscript itself continued its journey through history, surviving wars, fires, and centuries of change.

And with each passing generation, the legend of the Devil's Bible grew even stronger.

End of chapter 6

Chapter 7 : The Caretaker and the Devil's Bible

By the nineteenth century, the Codex Gigas had already become one of the most famous manuscripts in Europe. Its enormous size, mysterious history, missing pages, and famous portrait of the Devil had captured the imagination of countless people.

As the reputation of the manuscript grew, stories and anecdotes began to appear around it.

One of the most well-known stories connected to the Codex Gigas emerged in Sweden during the nineteenth century.

The story was published in 1858 in a collection of anecdotes and tells of a caretaker working at the Royal Library, where the manuscript was kept. According to the account, the caretaker accidentally became locked inside the library after falling asleep during his duties.

When he awoke, the building was silent.

The readers had gone home.

The staff had left.

Only rows of bookshelves remained in the darkness.

According to the story, the caretaker believed he saw books leaving their shelves and moving through the library in a strange circular motion. The books appeared to gather around the Codex Gigas. The giant manuscript then seemed to join the movement.

The story further claims that the caretaker became terrified by what he believed he had witnessed. When library employees arrived the next morning, they reportedly found him hiding beneath a table in a frightened state. The anecdote concludes by saying that his mental condition never fully recovered afterward.

Whether any of this actually happened is impossible to know.

Modern historians do not treat the story as a documented historical event. There are no official library records confirming supernatural activity, and the account survives only as a nineteenth-century anecdote. The National Library of Sweden itself presents the tale as part of the legends and folklore surrounding the Codex Gigas.

What makes the story important is not whether the books truly moved through the air. Rather, it demonstrates how powerful the reputation of the Codex Gigas had become. By

the 1800s, the manuscript was no longer viewed simply as a medieval book. It had become a symbol of mystery, inspiring stories that blurred the line between history and imagination.

Even today, visitors continue to be fascinated by the tale of the caretaker. Some view it as a ghost story. Others see it as an example of how legends grow around famous historical objects. Whatever the explanation, the story remains one of the most famous anecdotes ever connected to the Devil's Bible.

End of Chapter 7

Chapter 8: Where Is the Codex Gigas Today

After surviving wars, royal collections, centuries of travel, a devastating castle fire, and the mystery of its missing pages, one question still remains:

Where is the Codex Gigas today?

The answer takes us far from the monasteries of medieval Bohemia and into the heart of modern-day Sweden.

Today, the Codex Gigas is preserved in the National Library of Sweden in Stockholm, where it is considered one of the library's most valuable historical treasures. The manuscript is displayed in a special exhibition area known as the Treasury Room, a secure environment designed to protect rare and priceless documents from damage.

For visitors, seeing the Codex Gigas for the first time can be a surprising experience.

Most people imagine an ancient book as something small enough to hold in their hands. The Codex Gigas completely destroys that expectation. Standing nearly one meter tall and weighing around seventy-five kilograms, it looks more like a piece of furniture than a book. Even today, moving it

requires great care because of its enormous size and historical importance.

As visitors enter the exhibition, they find the giant manuscript resting inside a protective display case. The room is carefully controlled to protect the centuries-old parchment from changes in temperature, humidity, and light exposure. Every precaution is taken to ensure that the manuscript survives for future generations.

After all, the book has already survived more than eight hundred years.

The people responsible for preserving it understand that they are not simply protecting an old manuscript. They are protecting a unique piece of human history.

One of the most fascinating aspects of the modern Codex Gigas experience is that visitors are no longer limited to viewing only a few pages. Thanks to digital technology, the entire manuscript has been carefully scanned and preserved in digital form. Researchers and curious readers from around the world can explore its pages without physically touching the fragile original.

This digital preservation project has opened new opportunities for historians.

For centuries, only a small number of scholars had direct access to the manuscript. Today, experts can zoom into individual letters, examine illustrations in extraordinary detail, and compare sections of text without risking damage to the original document.

Modern technology has allowed researchers to learn more about the manuscript than ever before.

Yet despite all these advances, many mysteries remain unsolved.

The identity of the original scribe is still uncertain.

The reason behind the removal of the missing pages remains unknown.

The exact circumstances surrounding some periods of the manuscript's history continue to be debated by historians.

And, of course, the legend of the Devil's Bible continues to capture people's imagination.

Interestingly, the Codex Gigas briefly returned to its homeland in the twenty-first century. In 2007, the manuscript was loaned to Prague in the Czech Republic for a special exhibition. For the first time in centuries, the giant manuscript returned to the country where it had

originally been created. Thousands of visitors came to see it, making the exhibition a major cultural event. After the exhibition ended, the manuscript returned safely to Sweden.

Today, the Codex Gigas stands as more than just a medieval book.

It is a survivor.

It survived the passage of eight centuries.

It survived political upheavals and wars.

It survived a castle fire that destroyed countless other treasures.

It survived changing kingdoms, empires, and generations.

And through all of it, the giant manuscript continued its journey through history.

For many visitors, standing before the Codex Gigas is not merely an opportunity to see an old book. It is a chance to connect with the distant past. The same pages viewed by medieval monks, emperors, soldiers, librarians, and historians still exist today.

That is what makes the manuscript truly extraordinary.

Not the legends.

Not the rumors.

Not even the famous portrait of the Devil.

The most remarkable fact is that after more than eight hundred years, the Codex Gigas is still here.

Still preserved.

Still studied.

Still mysterious.

And still inspiring new generations to ask the same question:

What other secrets might this giant book still be hiding?

End of Chapter 8

Acknowledgement

The completion of this book would not have been possible without the help of various historical sources, researchers, libraries, and educational materials that provided valuable information about the Codex Gigas. We would like to express our sincere gratitude to all historians, manuscript experts, and institutions whose research helped preserve the history of this remarkable medieval manuscript for future generations. We also thank our mentors and Investigation Community for encouraging us to explore historical mysteries with curiosity and critical thinking. Special thanks to everyone who has contributed to the preservation and study of the Codex Gigas over the months, allowing us to learn about one of the most fascinating manuscripts in human history.

About the Researchers

This project was researched and written by:

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The purpose of this book is to present the history, mysteries, legends, and verified facts surrounding the Codex Gigas in an informative and engaging manner.

The Codex Gigas is more than just the world's largest medieval manuscript. It is a symbol of human dedication, knowledge, mystery, and survival. For more than eight centuries, it has survived wars, fires, political changes, and the passage of time. While many questions about the manuscript have been answered through historical research, some mysteries continue to remain unsolved. Perhaps that is why the Codex Gigas continues to fascinate people around the world.

Its pages tell not only the story of medieval knowledge but also the story of humanity's endless curiosity about the unknown.

Thank you for reading this book.

We hope this journey through the history and mysteries of the Codex Gigas has been both informative and enjoyable.

"The greatest mysteries are not always those we solve, but those that continue to inspire us to search for answers."

— Ayush, Alka & Rishikesh